THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Coal stocks have been accumulating at the pitheads due to various reasons one of which is inadequate availability of railway wagons for movement of coal. There was an additional accumulation of coal to the extent of 26.56 lakh tonnes at the pitheads at the collieries of Central Coalfields Ltd., in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during 1984-85. Against the overall assessed demand of 133.00 million tonnes of coal on Coal India during 1985-86 the actual off-take was 122.36 million tonnes. During the period April—June 85 the actual off-take was 32.79 million tonnes as against pro rata assessed demand of 36.03 million tonnes for this period. One of the reasons for less off take has been less materialisation of demand in some of the consuming sectors.

(c) Selected collieries, with very heavy stocks with no possibility of immediate outlet were asked to go *slow in the matter of production of* coal during the quarter ending June 1985.

(d) The matter of making available more wagons for coal loading is pursued with Railways. Regular coordination meetings are being held with the Railways to improve coal despatches by rail and better utilisation of wagons. As a result there has been definite improvement in loading of coal by rail this year as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Report of working group on the installation of new Steel Plants

718. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Working Group on iron and steel has emphasised the need for installation of two new steel plants in the country during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The working group of iron and steel has recommended that funds be provided for installation of two new plants by Neelachal Ispat Nigam and Vijayanagar Steel Limited.

Liberalisation of benefits under the Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme

719. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the benefits under the Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal under consideration of Government for liberalisation of the benefits payable under the Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme, 1971 includes.

(i) Enhancement in the rates of monthly family pension;

(ii) Increase in the quantum of pension to the existing pensioners;

(iii) The quantum of family pension and life assurance benefits not to be affected by the age of entry into the Family Pension Fund;

(iv) Streamlining the payment of other retirement benefits; and

(v) The family pension to be payable from the very next day of the death of the member.